

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6 and 15 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Morris for the helpful and courteous telephone exchange held with their representative at the end of September 2006. During the discussion, the Examiner indicated that the amendments submitted above appear to place the application in condition for allowance. The following remarks expand on the discussion with the Examiner.

The rejection of Claims 15-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above.

Claim 15 has been amended to remove the reference to the salt.

Claims 16, 17 and 19 have been canceled.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 4, 15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above.

Claim 4 has been appropriately amended. Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/706,999
Reply to Office Action of August 1, 2006

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

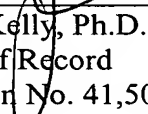
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)



James J. Kelly, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 41,504